

U.S. Embassy Lusaka, Zambia
Warden Message
March 7, 2011

Zambian Immigration Act – Change to Penalties

This message is to alert U.S. citizens to a provision in the 2010 Zambia Immigration and Deportation Act which could result in substantial fines and possible jail time for U.S. citizens who stay in Zambia beyond their permitted time or otherwise fall out of immigration status.

Section 56(1) of the Immigration and Deportation Act (No. 18 of 2010) states that "Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Act where no specific penalty has been provided is liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand penalty units or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or to both, and in the case of a foreigner in addition, to the variation or revocation of that person's permit as provided under the Act."

According to Zambia Immigration, the "penalty units" referred to under the act amount up to ZMK 18,000,000 (\$3,830 at an exchange rate of 4,700 ZMK to one USD. The actual USD amount will differ with exchange rate fluctuations). This fine will be decided at a court hearing, and it is possible that a U.S. citizen whose permit has expired could be jailed pending a court date. The U.S. Embassy advises all U.S. citizens to take steps to stay in proper immigration status and to contact Zambia Immigration with any questions.

Zambia Immigration has not yet released a notice regarding impending changes to residence, employment and other permits also provided for under the 2010 Immigration Act.

A full copy of the 2010 Immigration and Deportation Act is available at the Government Printer in Lusaka for a price of ZMK 25,000.

U.S. citizens can obtain Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy, Zambia web site](http://zambia.usembassy.gov) (<http://zambia.usembassy.gov>). You can also obtain global updates at the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts and [Country Specific Information for Zambia](#). If you do not have Internet access, you may

contact the call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

If your contact information has changed, please update your information with the Embassy via the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](http://travel.state.gov/step) (STEP) (<http://travel.state.gov/step>) – formerly known as the Internet Based Registration Service (IBRS). It is important to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

U.S. Embassy

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Main switchboard number: 0211-357-000

For emergencies after hours: 0211-357-000 or 0966-877-805

American Citizen Services Queries: ACSLusaka@state.gov